

Human Rights Council – 33rd session

Item 6: Universal Periodic Review Outcomes: Papua New Guinea



Statement by Action Canada for Population and Development

Action Canada makes this statement in collaboration with Kaleidoscope Australia and the Sexual Rights Initiative.

We deeply regret that the addendum report for Papua New Guinea is not available and as such, the status of recommendations remains unclear.

In regards to LGBTI persons, during its review, Papua New Guinea stated that the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons needed to be understood by society and that a national consultation process was required in order to address the issue in a comprehensive way.

Papua New Guinea also received recommendations calling on it to take measures to prevent violence and discrimination against persons on the basis of their sexual orientation and gender identity; to amend national legislation to include sexual orientation as prohibited grounds for discrimination and to decriminalize sexual relations between consenting adults of the same sex.

We would like to highlight that Papua New Guinea is a signatory to and has ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, hence has a responsibility to protect all individuals within its territory and subject to its jurisdiction without distinction of any kind, and therefore lack of understanding by the population as an argument for addressing these issues is not an acceptable argument.

Papua New Guinea should take all necessary legislative, administrative and other measures to ensure the full enjoyment of human rights for all persons and to provide effective protection against violence, and discrimination against all people including LGBTI through the enactment of comprehensive anti discrimination legislation and repealing all provisions that criminalize sexual relations between consenting adults of the same sex.

Thank you.